

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 607
By Southerland

A RESOLUTION to honor the memory of Dwight L. Nelson of
Morristown.

WHEREAS, the members of this General Assembly were greatly saddened to learn of the passing of Dwight L. Nelson; and

WHEREAS, Dwight Nelson was an exemplary public servant and consummate professional who worked assiduously to improve the quality of life for his fellow citizens in numerous capacities; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Nelson served with acumen and alacrity as a businessman, an accountant, a college teacher, and an industrial and economic consultant, earning the respect of the community for the exemplary quality of his work; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Nelson graduated as the Valedictorian of his high school at age sixteen and received his bachelor's degree from Illinois College in Jacksonville at twenty; and

WHEREAS, Dwight Nelson worked in both insurance and accounting before returning to Illinois College to pursue a graduate degree in banking; and

WHEREAS, after teaching college business classes and working at an entry-level banking position for three years, Dwight Nelson served as a Junior Officer at a bank in Mt. Vernon for three years before moving on to a bank in Urbana, where he stood as the Head of the Trust Department for five years; and

WHEREAS, after the passing of his first wife, Ruth Carson Nelson, Mr. Nelson met and married Louise, his loving wife of over fifty years; and

WHEREAS, in 1958, Dwight Nelson was named the President of Soy Capital Bank in Decatur, Illinois, while also serving as a Representative of the local Chamber of Commerce; and

WHEREAS, moving to Morristown in 1972, Dwight Nelson was named Chief Executive Officer of the Bank of Morristown, now First Tennessee Bank, which he tirelessly served until his retirement in 1985; and

WHEREAS, Dwight Nelson was also a ten-year adjunct faculty member of Walters State Community College, and he co-founded the Hamblen County Foundation for Educational Excellence and Achievement, serving as the foundation's President for six years; and

WHEREAS, a committed community philanthropist and devoted public servant, Dwight Nelson served as the President of the Champaign County Mental Health Association, a member of the Board of Directors of the Macon County Mental Health Clinic, a Board Member and the Economic Development Director of the Morristown Area Chamber of Commerce, a member of the Industrial Development Board of the City of Morristown, the Campaign Chair and President of the Board of Directors of the United Way of Hamblen County, a member of Morristown Hamblen Central Services, a member of the Hamblen County Chapter of the American Red Cross, a Charter Member of the Hamblen County Literacy Council, and a member of the Morristown Rotary Club; and

WHEREAS, no stranger to honors and accolades, Dwight Nelson received the 1975 United Way President's Award and the Distinguished Service Citation from Illinois College in 2005, and he was the second recipient of the R. Jack Fishman Community Service Award in 1999; and

WHEREAS, Dwight Nelson served with the United States Army Air Corps during World War II, fighting to protect the freedom and principles we all hold dear; during the war, he flew forty-nine missions without serious injury to either himself or his crew. He remained active in the Air Force Reserve until 1956, when he retired at the rank of Captain; and

WHEREAS, Dwight Nelson was an active and devout member of the All Saints' Episcopal Church, which he served faithfully for many years; and

WHEREAS, deeply devoted to his family, Dwight Nelson always endeavored to remain true to family values of the highest order; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Nelson was preceded in death by his parents, Clio and Jessie Nelson; his first wife, Ruth Carson Nelson; and his sister, Maurita Woods; and

WHEREAS, Dwight Nelson is survived by his wife, Louise; sons, Larry Nelson and Dick Nelson; daughter, Elizabeth “Libby” Nelson; and grandchildren, Andy and Katie Nelson; and

WHEREAS, Dwight Nelson epitomized the spirit and commitment that are characteristic of all true Tennesseans; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Nelson leaves behind an indelible legacy of integrity and probity in public life, compassion and loyalty in private life, and diligence and dedication in all his chosen endeavors; and

WHEREAS, it is fitting that this General Assembly should pause to remember the bountiful life of this exceptional public servant and human being; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED FOURTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we honor the memory of Dwight L. Nelson, reflecting fondly upon his impeccable character and his stalwart commitment to living the examined life with courage and conviction.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we express our sympathy and offer our condolences to the family of Mr. Nelson.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.